




Sandy loam and fine sandy loam soils

Percent available: Currently available soil moisture as a percent of available water capacity.

Available Soil Moisture Remaining	Appearance of soil
0-25 percent available	Dry, forms a very weak ball, aggregated soil grains break away easily from ball.
25-50 percent available	 <p>Slightly moist, forms a weak ball with defined finger marks, darkened color, no water staining on fingers, grains break away.</p>
50-75 percent available	 <p>Moist, forms a ball with defined finger marks, very light soil/water staining on fingers, darkened color will not stick.</p>
75-100 percent available	 <p>Wet, forms a ball with wet outline left on hand, light to medium staining on fingers, makes a weak ribbon between the thumb and forefinger.</p>
100 percent available	Wet, forms a soft ball, free water appears briefly on soil surface after squeezing or shaking, medium to heavy soil/water coating on fingers.

Courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service,
Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance (Program Aid 1619)